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A New Spy Chief

A NEW CHIEF has been named to head the Central Intelligence Agency—the U.S. spy organization whose activities are so super-secret that even its size and budget are never made public. The new chief is retired Navy Vice Admiral William F. Raborn Jr.

He has earned a reputation as a top administrator in developing the Navy's fleet ballistic system—for which he is known as "father of the Polaris."

With its highly secretive and extremely complex worldwide intelligence network, CIA is one of the most sensitive departments in our government. In the interest of national security, most, if not all of its work, must remain unknown. Yet, by the very nature of this work, CIA has received sharp criticism for some of its past performances. This has led to a drop in public confidence.

CIA actions in Korea, Cuba, and currently in Viet Nam, have been criticized by some members of Congress. Others charge there has been too close an alliance with the military. "The Invisible Government," written by two Washington reporters and published last fall, was bluntly critical of CIA's role as a civilian agency. CIA also has been accused of making policy when it should have been limited to gathering information and carrying out counter-espionage work.

BECAUSE OF his military background Adm. Raborn's appointment is expected to raise some controversy. But he is also expected to get the appointment. Once that is accomplished he can get on with the business of running the CIA. Not the least of his problems will be to restore confidence that CIA is a necessary—and competent—organization in a free society.